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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-06 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

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O R 262056Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6819
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR ETRD EEC PT CY
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL, MAY 26, 1975,
DUBLIN: PORTUGAL, RAW MATERIALS, CYPRUS, EC/CHINA RELATIONS

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1. SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL MET IN DUBLIN ON THE MO

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OF MAY 26, 1975. DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON PORTUGAL AND ON RAW MATERIALS
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ON PORTUGAL, THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED THE ATTITUDES WHICH THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE AT THE FORTHCOMING EC-PORTUGAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (BRUSSELS, MAY 28), AND PREPARED FOR IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD'S EC MISSION TO PORTUGAL (JUNE 1-3). THE MINISTERS WELCOMED THE RECENT COMMISSION PROPOSALS CONCERNING RAW MATERIALS SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY FROM LDC'S AND DECIDED TO COORDINATE IN PARIS THEIR EFFORTS ON THE DECLARATION ON COMMODITIES TO BE ADOPTED AT THE OECD MINISTERIAL. MINISTERS' POLITICAL COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS REPORTED SEPTEL, END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGAL: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DIRECTED THE BULK OF THEIR MORNING'S EFFORTS TO THE QUESTION OF COMMUNITY AID FOR PORTUGAL. GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REPORTED ON THEIR RECENT TALKS WITH THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN AND TRADE MINISTERS. IN THESE TALKS, THE PORTUGUESE HAD PROPOSED A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY, TO BE HELD IN JULY, FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF EC-PORTUGAL RELATIONS. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD, WHO WILL VISIT LISBON JUNE 1-3 (SEE DUBLIN 910), WILL DISCUSS THIS INITIATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE EC AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ELICIT A MORE EXPLICIT STATEMENT FROM THE PORTU-GUESE AS TO THE DESIRED FORM OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE. WHILE THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT "THIS WAS THE TIME FOR THE COMMUNITY TO SHOW OPENNESS AND AVAILABILITY," THERE WAS A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION THAT (GIVEN THE CURRENT INSTABILITY IN PORTUGAL) THERE WERE NO MORE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FROM LISBON.

3. THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO PORTUGAL BUT QUICKLY RAN INTO THE NOW "TRADITIONAL" MEMBER STATE CONCERNS. POINTING TO ITS RECENT BILATERAL AID COMMITMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY 70 MILLION DM, GERMANY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE COST OF ANY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THE GERMANS MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTIES (PARTICULARLY COSTS) CONNECTED WITH THE HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND REGULATIONS FOR PORTUGUESE WORKERS. ITALY REPEATED PREVIOUS CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTATION OF PORTUGUESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. FRANCE DID NOT FAVOR ANY COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFICS AT THIS TIME.
MUCH TO THE IRRITATION OF THE OTHERS, THEY REPORTEDLY WANTED TO
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WITHHOLD ANY COMMITMENT UNTIL AFTER THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT VISITS PARIS IN JUNE.

4. THE EC COMMISSION INTENDS TO PUT FORWARD ITS OWN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NEXT MEET ON JUNE 24. THESE PROPOSALS ARE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT PORTUGUESE VISITS TO BONN AND THE HAGUE; THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING A BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR SWIFT ACTION BY AN AD HOC

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PROCEDURE; THE OUTCOME OF THE JOINT EC/PORTUGAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS MAY 28; AND EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT FITZGERALD'S TRIP TO LISBON.

5. RAW MATERIALS: ACCORDING TO FITZGERALD, THE MINISTERS GAVE A "WARM WELCOME" AND "EXTREMELY POSITIVE" RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S RECENT PROPOSALS ON RAW MATERIALS SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY BY LDC'S. AFTER AN INITIAL DISCUSSION, THE MINISTERS AGREED TO CONSIDER THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION FURTHER AT THEIR JUNE 24 MEETING, BY WHICH TIME THE COMMISSION IS TO OFFER MORE DETAILED PROPOSALS REFLECTING THE OECD DISCUSSIONS OF MAY 28-29.

6. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED TO SUPPORT OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC GROUPS ON COMMODITIES AND DC/LDC RELATIONS. THE MINISTERS FURTHER AGREED THAT PARIS SHOULD BE THE SITE OF ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO COORDINATE POSITIONS ON THE COMMODITIES DECLARATION TO BE ADOPTED AT THE OECD MINISTERIAL.

7. CYPRUS: THE MINISTERS AGREED TO BEGIN DISCUSSION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS ON THE DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL WHICH THE EC INTENDS TO PROPOSE BE HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 24.

8. EC/CHINA RELATIONS: EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES URGED THE MINISTERS TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT THEIR NEXT MEETING "RECOGNIZING" THE DECISION BY THE PRC TO ACCREDIT AN AMBASSADOR TO THE COMMUNITY. REPORTEDLY, THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO SOAMES' SUGGESTION THAT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.
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